

13.00 hrs.

**Title:** Regarding privatization of many public sector units in Tamil Nadu.

**SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (SALEM):** Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House with regard to the step-motherly treatment meted out to the State of Tamil Nadu.

Sir, because of the pick and choose policy of this Government on disinvestment and privatisation, many public sector units in the State of Tamil Nadu are being disinvested mercilessly and ruthlessly without any basis. The Burn Standard Company of Salem, which you are aware of Sir, is a profit-making industry manufacturing refractory bricks for the purpose of steel industries. This is a profit-making unit which has almost 4000 employees and assets worth about several thousand crores of rupees. Though it is a profit-making industry, we are surprised to note that this industry is also under privatisation, under the clutches of disinvestment.

There is another industry, the Salem Steel Plant, worth several thousand crores of rupees which is also situated in Salem, Tamil Nadu. The Minister who visited there recently has declared that this industry is also going to be privatised. The Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed a Resolution urging the Government of India to refrain from going in for privatisation. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, our beloved leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has also written to the Government of India to refrain from handing over this unit to the private sector.

There is another institution which is a very strategic industry in Udagamandalam, the Hindustan Photofilms. About 5000 tribals who are employed in this industry are producing aerial films, X-rays and several processed films which are important for the defence sector of our country. If this unit producing aerial films of strategic nature is privatised, then the entire industry will be in the hands of the monopoly of private individuals and defence will have to be at the mercy of those private individuals.

Another industry which is attempted to be disinvested is the Neyveli Lignite Corporation. By the unanimous voice of the Members from Tamil Nadu, the Government has graciously come out that it would not privatise it. But we do not know what would happen in future. This is also a profit-making industry.

I demand the Government to have a clear-cut policy as all the public sector units in the State of Tamil Nadu are attempted to be privatised. I want the reaction of the Government to the Resolution passed unanimously by the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly regarding Salem Steel Plant and Burn Standard Company. Therefore, I want the reaction of the Government to the letter written by our leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 p.m.